

# Muscogee

## Nation News

April 1, 2012  
Vol. 42, Issue 7

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

# Communities gather for forum with administration



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak addresses community members at the Mvskoke Dome Friday, March 23 as part of the afternoon forum agenda with Principal Chief George Tiger and Second Chief Roger Barnett.

**Sterling Cospers**  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation communities met with Principal Chief George Tiger March 23, 2012 at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex. During the meeting communities presented concerns to Tiger directly in an open forum setting.

In his inaugural address, Tiger said he would, “conduct community meetings” stating, “who best knows about their communities than the communities?” Making good on this promise Tiger stood in the middle of the hardwood court surrounded by the representatives and addressed their concerns one by one.

Tiger also mentioned he would “spearhead a review of the following community issues” including; Title 11 facilities use agreement, the state of escrowed monies, and tobacco compacts. Community representatives raised all of these issues as concerns during this meeting. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code

Title 11 was the first of these issues to be addressed. Title 11 is Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code specifically regarding the communities: their charters, economic development, use of tribal land and buildings, and budget and financial management standards.

SEE FORUM - 6

### Muscogee Nation News adds social media

**Rebecca Landsberry**  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation News is now available online via social media sites Facebook and Twitter. Fans can ‘like’ the MNN on Facebook and follow on Twitter. Check out the MNN for the latest in tribal and community news including a calendar and exclusive coverage of Muscogee (Creek) Nation events and information. Friends can access MNN staff photos from the Facebook site as well as find links to other Native media. The MNN looks forward to expanding the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s presence in the digital world.

For more information, contact the Muscogee Nation News at (918) 732-7720. “Like” the MNN on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MuscogeeNationNews> Follow the MNN on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/#1/The\\_MNN](https://twitter.com/#1/The_MNN)

## Tiger named president of Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal Council

**Sterling Cospers**  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief George Tiger has been appointed president of the recently revived Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes by the other members of the council, with Cherokee Principal Chief John Baker serving as vice-president. Tiger expressed his feelings on being elected the president of the reformed council. “It is very humbling, indeed an honor. I remember going to an Inter-tribal Council meeting when I was 24 or 25 years old.” The decision to restore the council came after several leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes attended a midyear National Congress of American Indians conference in Washington, D.C., in January 2012. “For many years the Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes was considered the major tribal council in the country. So, with

my conversations and discussions with Chief Pile, Gov. Anoatubby and Chief Harjo I actually lobbied to see why we couldn’t go back to that,” said Tiger. The council has been much less active in recent years. “We’ve kind of slipped a little bit. For a number of years the Inter-tribal Council activities were minimized to the executive board. Sometimes the meetings were just a teleconference call,” said Tiger. Tiger also compared the council’s recent minimal activity to how it functioned in previous years. “It consisted of 25 members, five from each tribe, plus the opportunity to meet over a two-day period to come up with resolutions and position papers on behalf of the Inter-tribal Council. It was just a good time for networking.” The Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes consists of the Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), Seminole, Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

According to their official website, the Inter-tribal Council formed in 1949, and was the product of several meetings between leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes. The purpose of the council is outlined in their constitution, which states: ... to secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws of the United States of America, and the State of Oklahoma; to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian race; to preserve Indian cultural values; to enhance and promote general educational opportunity among members of the Five Civilized Tribes; to seek equitable adjustments of tribal affairs; to secure and to preserve rights under Indian Treaties with the United States; and other-wise to promote the common welfare of the American Indians.

SEE FIVE - 2

### Knight and the Temptations to headline 2012 MCN Festival



**Rebecca Landsberry**  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The 38th annual Muscogee (Creek) Festival will take place June 21-24, 2012. Gladys Knight and the Temptations will hit the stage for Saturday night’s entertainment following the conclusion of the 39th annual rodeo. The MCN Tourism & Recreation page will be accessible from the main website at [www.themuscogee-creeknation.com](http://www.themuscogee-creeknation.com) where event entry forms and information will be available. Volunteer coordinators are needed for the following events: • Adult 3-on-3 basketball tournament • Youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament • Parking • Grounds/Janitorial All food vendor spots have been filled. Arts and crafts vendor spaces are available. Contact Brian On-The-Hill at (918) 732-7993. For more information on the festival, contact MCN T&R at (918) 732-7992.

#### MNN 2 - EDITORIAL

Creek cooks recognized for service



#### MNN 4 - BUSINESS

Creek businesswoman ‘powers’ her way into back-up generator market



#### MNN 9 - HISTORY

And Still the Waters Run: Keeping the flame alive



#### MNN 10 - PEOPLE

Accomplishment: Marissa Proctor



#### MNN 12 - COMMUNITY

Creek veterans honored in Arizona







## Muscogee Nation News STAFF

Manager - Christina Good Voice  
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry  
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife  
Reporter - Sterling Cosper  
Sports Reporter - Darren DeLaune  
Contributor - Gerald Wofford

**The Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News** unless other copyrights are shown.

Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

**To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor**, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: [wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)



## Letter from MNN Editor:

OKMULGEE — Estonko, readers?

I've missed you all! We've been so busy and packed full of news, my column was pushed to the side. Thanks to all those who noticed its absence, especially faithful readers Robert Harris and Sharry Mouss.

I hope you're all getting your fill of wild onions this season and supporting our Mvskoke churches along the way.

My Grandma Gladys used to say she had the best wild onions on her land because they were the 'real Creek wild onions.' I miss her spunky personality and how she was never afraid to say what was on her mind.

We're taking MCN Communications to new heights with the addition of an hour-long edition of Mvskoke Radio as well as a Facebook page and Twitter account. We're excited for the new forums and hope they will continue to facilitate open communication between the citizens and the MCN.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Christina Good Voice has joined the department as Communications Manager and brings years of experience as a reporter and multimedia editor at the *Cherokee Phoenix*. We are happy to add her expertise and knowledge to the MNN.

If you have news, events or story ideas, please contact the Communications Department at (918) 732-7720 or email me at [RLandsberry@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:RLandsberry@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)



# Letters to the editor

Citizen recognizes dedicated employees

OKMULGEE — Great Employees are hard to find in any work environment, be it a corporation, government or even a tribal government. But the Muscogee Creek Nation is fortunate to have those kind of individuals who come to work everyday and give their best. Such a group is the personnel that work at the Okmulgee Nutrition Center. They go above and beyond to provide superior service to the elderly.

Just who are these exceptional workers anyway? They are: Head Cook Geneva K. Bair who travels from Dewar, Cook Assistant Sidney Long who lives on Wilson Road near Okmulgee, Cook's Aide Adam Pigeon who lives in Okmulgee, and coming from Tulsa is Home bound Deliverer Harriett Watson.

This hardworking team always has a smile and they personally greet the

regulars by name as they go through the line. Another unique thing about this center: no paper is used. Real silverware, plates, glasses and cups are put out. This extra touch requires more cleanup work from these people, but they get it done and it's most appreciated.

These remarkable workers cook and serve 22,932 meals a year at the Center and another 12,888 for the home bound plus two other communities. That is a lot of meals to prepare in one year, and even more meals are going to have to be cooked and served when the new elderly housing is completed this year. That is going to be a huge challenge for this hard working team.

Right after a meal has been served Geneva will make her rounds, going from table to table to get feedback



Photo Courtesy/Bob Hicks

Pictured left to right are Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition employees: Cook's Assistant Sidney Long, Cook's Aide Adam Pigeon, Head Cook Geneva K. Bair, Home bound Deliverer Harriett Watson.

about the meal. One day, a colleague at my table asked how she does what she does. Geneva replied, "I love my work."

I believe her.  
— Bob Hicks  
Elderly Housing

Citizen comments of Kialegee Tribal Town casino

WETUMKA — I am not a member of the Kialegee Nation.

I am an enrolled member of the Mvskoke Nation, and thank you for what you have done for me.

This is my opinion:  
Oklahoma – home of the Redman Indian Territory.

My feeling is that for a nation to better itself is a step forward.

In these days of higher prices

for all items we all need an income. The people of Broken Arrow should know this will improve their town also and not try to deny services for this project.

This land (Okla.) was set-aside for all Indian nations.

As oil-gas was discovered and no more Indians were going to be borned (white government thinking) our land should be opened to

anyone. Thus now we are few and our land even less.

I know not all Indians like casinos. But when I look for a betterment of all, we need money.

Thus go Kialegee Nation. I am behind you.

The people of Broken Arrow (which sounds like a good name for them) should remember we are persons with needs.

As always, if we were building the casino with all income to go to Broken Arrow residents, they would open their arms to its construction. We Indians should be like the thinking of Tecumseh, unite.

Thanks to the Sioux (Pine Ridge) for what they are trying to accomplish.

— Brent Harjo-Moffer  
Thlewathe Tribal Town

Citizen hopes for reconsideration of no-pet housing policy

OKMULGEE — I have spent hours talking to various departments regarding housing. As a femme sole being 77 years old and on limited social security income I was hoping my nation Creek/Muscogee would be a place I could call home. At every turn I heard the mantra "We do not allow pets," "We do not allow pets."

I am very disappointed that at none of the housing do you allow pets. I have a 14 year old dog that I will not part with. Other nations do allow pets. I spoke to two other nations that accept dogs with a small deposit.

It is a medical/scientific truth that the elderly benefit greatly for having a dog or cat. It lowers blood

pressure which I have and many seniors have, they calm people that are nervous or ill. In some cases a pet gives the elderly a reason to get up and move around, take the dog for a walk.

I hope the nation re-thinks this draconian policy. The Cherokee in a 40 unit for elderly retirement has at least eight people with dogs and

the manager said there was never a problem.

I would like to be with my own Muscogee / Creek people. I sent application forms in not knowing "no pets".

Please rethink this policy.  
Sincerely yours,  
—Bea  
Beatrice Grayson

Freedmen thank MNN for March 1, 2012 article

MOORE — Thank you for the recent article published on freedmen in the *Muscogee Nation News* on March 1, 2012.

The descendants of former Muscogee (Creek) citizens placed on the Muscogee (Creek) Freedmen roll have filed a Petition for Federal recognition as an American Indian Tribe.

This Band of Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen welcomes inquiries from Muscogee citizens wanting to truly learn the history of Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen.

Efforts to present evidence in support of documented Muscogee Creek Indian blood before the tribal court system were unanswered.

Muscogee (Creek) Indian Freedmen were loyal and in service (not slavery) to the Muscogee Nation for over 100 years. Service included holding office in the Supreme Court as Judges; the Senate as Senators; delegates to Congress (House of Kings and House of Warriors) and Creek Language Interpreters. Learn about the events

which have shaped Indian Freedmen history in the Creek Nation.

On behalf of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band: Gail M. Jackson, Advisor; Ron Graham, President; Jeffrey D. Kennedy, Vice President; Sharon Lenzy-Scott, Secretary and Rhonda K. Grayson, Treasurer.

## The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

**To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.**

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

**FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov)**

**The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.**

## Five

Continued from Page 1

The recent revival of the Inter-tribal council comes at a time when many serious issues are facing the various tribes. The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations are currently dealing with water rights disputes with the state of Oklahoma and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is still addressing the issue of the Kialegee Tribal town's attempt to set up their own casino within Broken Arrow.

The council has already held discussions on the Kialegee issue. Tiger was in Washington D.C., on tribal business, and was unable to make it back in time to be a part of these discussions.

"Unfortunately the weather was not cooperative. We couldn't get into Dallas/Ft. Worth. We ended up back in Tulsa way after the meeting had adjourned," said Tiger.

The Inter-tribal Council as a whole met with Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk March 14, 2012 at Hard

Rock Casino and Hotel in Tulsa.

Another timely element of the council's re-formation is the recent dissolution of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission.

"To all of us that are holding positions as chief and governor of the Inter-tribal group, we feel like the abolishment of the Indian Affairs Commission

is one of the worst things the state could have done. I see the state of Oklahoma, with one of the largest Indian populations in the country, still behind the times. We want to change some of the thinking behind that," said Tiger.

Tiger continued by explaining the important impact the Five Civilized Tribes have on Oklahoma.

"We are one of the state's largest employers. We provide so much money to the state of Oklahoma's general fund, through compacts we have, and through what we do on a local level economically. It has been a tremendous effort by the tribes to not only take care of their tribal citizens, but to take care of Oklahoma as well."



George Tiger



# CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Springfield UMC Wild Onion Dinner April 7

OKEMAH — Springfield United Methodist Church will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Plates for adults are \$9 and \$5 for children 12 and under for all you can eat, and will include a drink and dessert.

For more information call Ethel Humble at (918)-716-0190, or Carol Tiger at (918) 716-8267.

## Fixico Benefit Grocery Bingo and Food Sale

HOLDENVILLE — A benefit Grocery Bingo and Food Sale will be held Saturday, April 7, 2012 at the Holdenville Indian Community Center.

The Food Sale will start at 10:30 a.m., and bingo will follow at 1:30 p.m. Games will be \$10 for 10 and include hard luck. There will also be a cake walk, door prizes, and 50/50 pots.

Proceeds will benefit Ashleigh Fixico, granddaughter of Paul and Georgetta Fixico.

## Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — “Walk a Mile In Her Shoes” is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 12:30 p.m., at the MCN Mound Building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918) 813-6900 or

email [tqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:tqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

## Indian taco sale set for April 21

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) attendees of the 2012 National Indian Conference on Aging will be holding an Indian Taco Sale fund raiser April 21, 2012 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The sale will be held at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center located at 8611 S. Union in Tulsa.

A taco, drink and dessert are \$8, and a silent auction will also be held. Proceeds will be used to attend the conference.

For more information call (918) 298-2464.

## CMN calls for commentary by April 21, 2012

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public may submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org).

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic pro-

grams and must be in writing and received by April 21, 2012.

## MCN Web site to be updated, seeks feedback

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department is redesigning the website to make it more functional. As part of the redesign, the department is seeking input from citizens regarding usability. Feedback will be used to create a more user-friendly site.

Would you like to submit job applications online? Check the status of your claim with the housing department? Change the name on your roll card from your maiden name or update your address? Have other suggestions or comments about the website? Let us know via email at [jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

Mvto!  
For more information, call (918) 732-7720 or contact us by mail at:  
C/O MCN Communications  
P.O. Box 580  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

## Children's Mental Health Awareness Day set for Wednesday May 9, 2012

SAPULPA — Mental, emotional, and behavioral issues are real. They can be very painful, and challenging. These concerns are a source of stress for children and their families, schools, and communities.

The number of children and their families who are affected by mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges is significant. It is estimated that as

many as one in five children and adolescents may have a mental health challenge that can be identified and require treatment.

What are the causes of mental illness? Through research, it is becoming clear that many of these conditions are caused by biology, psychological and environment, or a combination.

Some examples of biological aspects are genetics, chemical imbalances in the body and damage to the central nervous system, such as defects to certain areas of the brain.

Psychological factors include, server trauma suffered as a child, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. Many environmental aspects also can affect your mental health, including exposure to violence, extreme stress, and the loss of an important person.

Families and communities working together can help children, and adolescents with mental health challenges.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse program has a range of services to meet the necessary needs of children and their families.

To help support your local community efforts to raise awareness about children's mental health please contact Lindsley Harry, Social Marketing Coordinator at (918) 224-9307. Protecting the Future (CMHI grant) will provide presentations and brochures to promote public education concerning mental health.

## Resilient Farmer Workshop set for April 28

POTEAU — The Resilient Farmer Workshop is set for Sat., April 28, 2012 at the Kerr Center. The event is from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at Kerr Center Stewardship Ranch.

Registration/check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Please register by April 23, 2012, as space is limited.

At this workshop participants will learn about innovative approaches to building soil fertility and becoming more self-sufficient on the farm.

Emphasis will be on using innovative approaches to building soil fertility for sustainable market farming.

Participants will learn about cover crops, green manures, rotations, compost, compost tea, organic no-till, bermuda grass suppression using cover crops and care of the soil food web.

Chief presenter will be soil health expert Steve Diver. Diver is a former OSU Extension Horticulturist/Agriculture agent (Muscogee and McIntosh counties) with 30 years of experience working in organic and sustainable agriculture.

Cost is \$35 and includes lunch. Further details are on the Kerr Center Web site at: <http://kerrcenter.com/joomla/eventlist/details/137-the-resilientfarmer-workshop>.

Participants may also register by contacting the Kerr Center at (918) 674-9123 or via email: [mailbox@kerrcenter.com](mailto:mailbox@kerrcenter.com)

# April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

## April 11, 2012

# “Taking Back Our Traditions!”

*Presented by: Muscogee (Creek ) Nation Family Violence Prevention*

**DATE: APRIL 11, 2012**

**LOCATION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
MOUND BUILDING**

**REGISTRATION: 12:30 P.M.**

**PRESENTATION: 1:30 - 2 P.M.**

**(FOLLOWED BY WALK)**

⇒ **PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A  
T-SHIRT, CUP, & BAG**

⇒ **Donations accepted: Hygiene products, new flip-flops,  
slippers, new apparel or new undergarments. All items  
will be donated to Sexual Assault Nurse Examination  
Programs within MCN tribal jurisdiction.**

## 4th Annual Sexual Assault Awareness Walk



**For more information please contact Tina or Tania at (918) 732-7869.**



# Creek businesswoman ‘powers’ her way into back-up generator market

Gary Fife  
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA — It’s unusual to find a woman in the electrical generator trade, much less a Native American woman, but Ginette Overall is making her way into that industry and becoming a recognizable TV spokesperson in the process.

TV viewers might recognize Overall from her TV commercials for her business, “PowerReady” and that’s something she’s proud of. The Creek woman built her business by starting with no background in electrical generation to a point where she is selling back-up generators to private homes, major retail consumers and even several tribal governments. The owner and president of Power Ready explains that she sells generators that supply substitute power when the electric utility power is lost due to a variety of reasons like bad weather.

Overall is an enrolled Creek citizen and her family, the Perryman and McIntosh families are from the Bristow and Tulsa areas. Overall keeps that heritage as an important part of her life, “I do. I think it’s just in our DNA, part of your soul that you can feel. When you look into the eyes of a picture of one of your ancestors and you know it’s there. It’s how you live your life, if you’re going to be connected or not.”

Her business began, she said, when the electricity in her home

went out and she wanted a back-up generator, but had difficulty finding one. She recognized the opportunity in the local market and began an effort to fill it.

“Once I saw there were people who had the same problem as me and they didn’t know how to fix it, they knew they didn’t like the lights off, but what was the alternative? We started advertising and going on TV and trying to get the word out that there is an alternative to sitting there in the dark and cold. Building on that, we went from the residential side to the commercial end of it. Now, we’re moving up to the tribal side of it and that’s all the casinos and everything,” she said.

PowerReady sells a variety of stand-by generators, from the smaller, mobile versions used at tailgate parties to generators large enough to serve a whole building. These stand-by units turn on automatically when the electricity is lost in many cases. She became a dealer when she learned that to obtain a generator, she would have to purchase multiple units. So, she decided to sell them.

Being a Creek and a woman in a male-dominated industry has been both a benefit and drawback she recalls, “I think the woman part is harder than the native part, because when most people think about generators, power tools and electricity, they think about some big guy in a plaid shirt

with a tool belt. So, it kind of catches them off guard when they see that it’s a woman that’s going to come in and talk about. So, I don’t think that I would change either one of them.”

Becoming a recognizable TV spokesperson has had some effect on her life, “It has affected my life. A lot of times they do know me. Its’ been good and it’s been bad.”

She admitted that occasionally there have been some people that did make her a little nervous, but mostly it’s been on the positive side, she laughed, “You’ve got those that you wish wouldn’t look at the commercials, but mostly it’s been nice people. They

really enjoy seeing Robert, (her large male co-star) in the commercial. They know that we’re local and not some slick package out of New York. These are real people who are trying to make a living right here . . . That we live with you and we know everything about Tulsa just like you do and most people are really nice about it. I sometimes get a good table in a restaurant because of it.”

Overall shared some encouragement for young Native women who might consider starting a business career on their own, “I think if she had the desire and ability, that whatever dream she has, she should certain-

ly get out there and go and try it. I don’t think that there’s any reason for someone to be hesitant or negative about it. You have to see yourself doing it and get past it. Once you see yourself doing it, then you can do it. That’s exactly what ‘she’ needs to do, is get up and go do it.”

PowerReady is always going to be the primary focus of Overall’s business agenda, but she predicts there are other ideas and opportunities that have caught her attention, so she may be branching out into some other projects.

For more information on Power Ready, call (918) 712-5300.

Ginette Overall



MNN/Gary Fife

Pictured above is owner of PowerReady generator store, Ginette Overall standing in front of her store located at 4121 S. Sheridan in Tulsa, Okla.



**RIB BASKET** \$6<sup>50</sup>  
Ribs, Fries, Baked Beans & Texas Toast

**RIBS (FULL SLAB)** \$15<sup>50</sup>



**STEAK & SHRIMP** \$12<sup>25</sup>  
10 oz. New York Strip, 6 Jumbo Fried Shrimp Salad and Hot Roll

**CHICKEN FRIED STEAK** \$6<sup>25</sup>  
Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable & Roll

**BRISKET SANDWICH**  
Sliced \$5<sup>50</sup>  
Chopped Beef \$5<sup>25</sup>



From some good ole smoked BBQ to your favorite comfort foods, we are serving it all up in a whole new way.

Hand cut steaks, Brisket and Ribs smoked right here at the casino. You’ll love the food and at a price that can’t be beat!

Stop by or call in your order today at the Council Oak Cafe located inside the One Fire Casino.

(918)756.8400



HWY 75. & EUFAULA ST • OKMULGEE, OK  
918.756.8400 • WWW.ONEFIRECASINO.COM

THIS FACILITY IS REGULATED BY THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OFFICE OF PUBLIC GAMING



# 2012 MCN Primary Election set for April 12, 2012

Media Release  
MCN Election Board

OKMULGEE — In order to comply with Article VI, Section 2 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, a Special Election will be held for Seat B in both Creek and Wagoner Districts.

The Filing Period for vacant seats is set for March 26-28, 2012.

The Special Primary Election will be May 5, 2012.

The Special General Election will be July 7, 2012, if necessary.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution was recently amended to state representation of the National Council to be reduced from 26 representatives to 16 representatives by the end of 2013 with staggered terms.

A General Election was held Nov. 5, 2011 to fill vacant seats of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for the Palen-Kolypohkaken (17th) Session. George Tiger was sworn in to office as Principal Chief Jan. 2, 2012 and vacated National Council Representative Seat B (Creek District) with approximately two years

remaining.

An election was held for one seat for the Wagoner District for the next four years, and one seat remains vacant.

VOTER REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY

- ENROLLED CITIZEN
- 18 YEARS AND OLDER

ENROLLED CITIZENS; IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED A VOTER OF THE TRIBE CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD BY CALLING 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736. THE REGISTRATION CLERK WILL MAIL YOU A VOTER'S REGISTRATION FORM OR YOU CAN COME BY THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE LOCATED AT THE MAIN COMPLEX ACROSS FROM THE RECEPTION DESK. WE WILL NEED A COPY OF YOUR TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD.

VOTER ADDRESS

ALL MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REGISTERED VOTERS

(PRECINCT AND ABSENTEE VOTERS), CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736 TO MAKE SURE YOUR VOTER INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE. VOTER, IF YOU HAVE MOVED PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE OF THE NEW ADDRESS. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY VOTER WHO IS DECEASED, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE SO THAT HE/SHE CAN BE REMOVED FROM OUR FILES.

## ABSENTEE VOTING

THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ELECTION BOARD ENCOURAGES REGISTERED VOTERS TO REGISTER OR CHANGE THEIR VOTING STATUS AS AN ABSENTEE VOTER IF THE CITIZEN; WORKS ON WEEKENDS, HAS CHILDREN ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAYS, WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON ELECTION DAY, ANY ELDERLY WHO IS HOME BOUND AND ALSO TO MAKE IT CONVENIENT FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS WILL BE MAILED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE REQUEST FORM MAY BE MAILED, E-MAILED, FAXED OR BOUGHT IN PERSON TO THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE. THE FORM MUST CONTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF THE VOTER. THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IS VITAL TO THE ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS.

## ELECTION DATES:

PRIMARY ELECTION: MAY 5, 2012  
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: APRIL 12, 2012 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: APRIL 16, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 25, 2012

ABSENTEE/PRECINCT REGISTRATION RE-OPENS: MAY 10, 2012  
GENERAL ELECTION: JULY 7, 2012

POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: JUNE 14, 2012 - 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: JUNE 18, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 27, 2012 - 5 P.M.

## PRECINCT VOTERS

ALL PRECINCT VOTERS; ON ELECTION DAY PLEASE VOTE AT THE PRECINCT POLLING SITE WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED. IF UNSURE, CALL THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE BEFORE ELECTION DAY AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736.

ELECTION DAY, IF YOU VOTE AT A DIFFERENT POLLING SITE OTHER THEN WHERE YOU'RE REGISTERED YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE LISTED ON THAT POLL BOOK. ALL POLLING SITES ARE OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of: )  
MILLIE HILL, )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. DV-2012-16  
vs. )  
ALVIN HULBUTTA, )  
Respondent. )

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Alvin Hulbutta

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-, styled In re the Marriage of Mille Hill, Petitioner and Alvin Hulbutta, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2012 at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of Feb., 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Jobie King  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of: )  
BARBARA JEAN TONEY, )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. DV-2012-04  
vs. )  
GREGORY VINCENT ROBERTS, )  
Respondent. ) Before the Honorable Gregory Bigler  
Judge of the District Court

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Gregory Vincent Roberts

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-04, styled In re the Marriage of Barbara Jean Toney, Petitioner and Gregory Vincent Roberts, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012 at 10 o'clock A.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Shalon McLenathan  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of McClish: )  
CATHY ELIZABETH McCLISH, )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. DV-2012-02  
vs. )  
MICHAEL McCLISH, SR., )  
Respondent. )

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Michael McClish, Sr.

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. FD-2012-02, styled In re the Marriage of Cathy Elizabeth McClish, Petitioner and Michael McClish, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2012 at 9:30 o'clock A.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 29<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Shalon McLenathan  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the Paternity of KALEB CURTIS )  
HICKS: )  
KOLEPAH BERRYHILL, )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. CV-2011-158  
and ) Before Gregory Bigler  
RYAN CURTIS HICKS, ) Judge of the District Court  
Respondent. )

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ryan Curtis Hicks

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2011-158, styled In re the Paternity of Kaleb Curtis Hicks, Petitioner and Ryan Curtis Hicks, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Paternity Determination and Order for Child Support Custody and Visitation* from you.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2012 at 1:30 o'clock P.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Jobie King  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)



# Southern Regional Offices April calendar

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>2</b>  Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	<b>3</b>  Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	<b>4</b>  Citizenship 10am-3pm Legal Services (appointment only) National Council 9am-4pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Creek Nation Complex Closed	<b>7</b>
<b>9</b>  Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	<b>10</b>  Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	<b>11</b>  National Council 9am-4pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	<b>14</b>
<b>16</b>  Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	<b>17</b>  Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	<b>18</b>  Legal Services 9am-3pm National Council 9am-4pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>23</b>  Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm	<b>24</b>  Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	<b>25</b>  National Council 9am-4pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm	<b>28</b>
<b>30</b>  Social Services 8am-5pm Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm			<b>-Employment &amp; Training here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1155</b> <b>-Housing here daily (405) 452-1100/1106</b> <b>-Reintegration (appointment only) 1-800-259-1059</b> <b>-WIC (405) 452-1300</b>		

## Emvponayv

Gary Fife  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Leaders of Oklahoma’s major American Indian tribes were in Disneyland-On-The-Potomac recently at the winter session of the National Congress of American Indians, the nation’s largest Native lobbying group. The tribal governments were consulting with the feds and got a lot of speeches from federal agency leaders.

The Okla. folks talked about bringing back the old Okla. Inter-tribal Council to form a unified voice on key issues. The council split up years ago as the tribes followed their own paths. In the meeting, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker were elected as leaders. Tiger was happy, “I really believe much more can be accomplished,” he said.

Other items including an invitation to the top-dog Indian fed guy, Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk to meet tribal leaders in eastern Oklahoma.

Their efforts come at a time when actions on both the state and federal levels are getting more skepticism from tribes. Maybe, things such as the Governor abolishing the Indian Affairs Commission, saying there would be an Indian Liaison position instead. But she still hasn’t made it happen despite a promise and a deadline (now passed). The administration said it was a problem because they couldn’t find a qualified person and the blood quantum requirement was too high. (In Oklahoma?) Perhaps, what the Governor really wanted: make the tribes come up with their own committee and carry the cost themselves? Ya think? Native America, indeed!

The move drew positive comments from key members

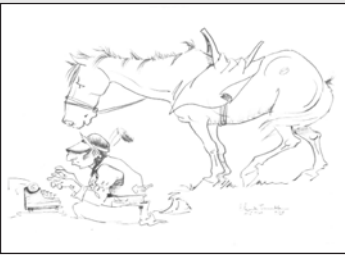
of Oklahoma’s congressional delegation. Let’s hope something can come of that.

Hey, have you heard that Indian casinos are rebounding from the recent economic recession? Over the last couple of years, they lost about one percent of revenues. Now, the latest reports say, they regained that one percent. I guess when you look at revenues in seven or eight figures, that’s some real cash. When you look at my revenues, one percent either way doesn’t pack too much of a wallop and I’m not sure I ever got past a lifelong economic recession. For any young people looking at a career as a journalist, be sure to take your vow of poverty first.

Ready for more exciting developments on the Lone Ranger movie front?

The movie is still on and due out sometime in 2013. However, critics say you can’t figure out whether the flick is a bad joke or a serious effort. An advance photo of the Masked Man and his Faithful Indian Companion shows the Lone Ranger looking like a cowboy off the pages of Gentlemen’s Quarterly. Worse than that, Johnny Depp as Tonto, was wearing black war paint streaked down his face looking like he had a terminal case of running mascara. On his head was some kind of dead bird with outstretched wings, reminiscent of something an English princess might wear to her cousin’s wedding. Who the heck comes up with this stuff?

Once again, Hiyo Silver!



## Forum

Continued from Page 1

There was discussion from both Tiger and community members regarding the possibility of revising Title 11. One of the main problems mentioned was outdated language.

“For example, right now we are still using the same language for our casinos that we were using for high stakes bingo,” said Tiger.

Another problem mentioned by citizens detailed how it had been used by administrations in the past. One citizen had this to say:

“We are tired of getting letters threatening the possibility of losing funding, charters or the threat of facing prosecution from not fulfilling laws outlined in Title 11 for community funding. We feel that it shouldn’t be used in a dictative manner.”

The community representative continued stating that how these policies have been used discouraged their willingness to cooperation with tribe.

Tiger responded to their concerns by promising to hold more meetings with the communities to specifically address the code and gain the their feedback on how it should be amended.

Tiger also stated that he would extend the deadline for community block grant applications.

The issue of escrowed monies or use of tribal funds was raised briefly, and Tiger stated that his administration is still looking into where money has been used and where it is going currently.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commissioner and Okla. State Rep. Jerry McPeak helped Tiger address the tobacco compact issue. Tiger introduced the issue before handing the floor over to McPeak by describing their meeting with state officials over the compact.

“At the end of January or early February, we probably had 30 minutes to talk about a compact. We believe we accomplished more in 20 minutes than what happened in the previous administration. The only thing that is stalemating us is a settlement agreement,” said Tiger.

McPeak shared Tiger’s view, and explained tribal officials have begun speaking with a new person at the state level who is more agreeable.

Tiger was hesitant to outline specifics of what the compact may entail at this point. “It is still confidential, the things we are discussing as possible agreements, but they are listening,” he said.

McPeak assured the community members that the final results of the agreement would be positive however. “Once we have a compact, that itself will provide the communities with economic stimulus,” he said.

Both Tiger and the community members expressed a wish to centralize communication between the communities and the tribe. Many of the representatives pointed out the inconvenience of driving to the tribal complex in Okmulgee to conduct all their business.

One solution was discussed was use of the Internet to provide the ability to conduct business with the tribe without having to leave their respective towns.

“At some point we want to do that. There’s one thing we want thing we want to pursue and that is having centralized access. There are a lot of programs that have the same information. Right now we are very sensitive about putting things out on the Internet, because of the sensitivity of that information. It is going to be a

little longer,” said Tiger.

One representative asked Tiger about assistance for economic development geared toward youth. Tiger responded by explaining that his administration had already applied for funding through the treasury for these programs.

Another representative requested that more council members attend their community meetings. Tiger assured them that he would attend, and hoped that the council members would start going as well.

A concern was also raised over the possibility of the block grant falling short of what the communities needed. In response to this, Tiger suggested an application through special appropriations for any specific projects that needed further funding.

During the meeting, Tiger expressed his pride in the relationship the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has with its community, and his wish for continued and improved communication between the two.

“There are many tribes that are envious of the relationship we have with our communities. We want to get back to where we were with the communities, and I think you want to work with us. This is the first meeting we’ve had, and this won’t be the last,” said Tiger.

## MCN Citizenship Office updating death records

Media Release  
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office is asking family members of deceased citizens to contact our office in order to update the deceased citizens’ information. The office is also requesting the original state certified full image death certificate of the citizen.

The original document will be returned. This is in response to the Citizenship Office’s efforts to update the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s files.

For more information, please contact the office at (918) 732-7941.



# McIntosh Co., seeks CASA volunteers

Media Release  
McIntosh Co., CASA

EUFULA — Today and every day in America, five children will die from abuse and neglect. Since 2010, In Oklahoma alone, 10 children have died at the hands of their own parents or caretakers. Currently, in McIntosh County, we have children who, through no fault of their own, have suffered abuse and neglect and are, living with relatives, foster parents, or in youth shelters, while the Department of Human Services and the Court system deal with their cases. These children often have no one, outside the system, to speak up for them in court and some have even fallen “through the cracks” once inside the system. If you care about what happens to these children, enough to want to do something about it, then C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Southeast Oklahoma would like to give you that opportunity. CASA’s are ordinary people who care about kids. You don’t have to be a lawyer or a social worker to qualify. You just have to be an adult willing to stand up for an abused and neglected child. As a CASA volunteer you receive official training



from professionals in the field to get you familiar with the court and child welfare system and other important aspects of the cases including child development, interviewing techniques and cultural competency. You are then qualified to be court appointed by a judge. You’ll be given the tools and personal support you need to aid your search for as much information as possible about a child in order to achieve an objective viewpoint of his/her welfare.

With about 50 per cent of the children served being boys, we have a special need for more men to stand up and be counted as “everyday heroes” and role models in the lives of these future men. One person could make all the difference in the world to a child suffering from abuse or neglect. That person could be you.

If you’re interested, classes are forming now to begin in the next two months. Please call CASA of S.E. Oklahoma in Eufaula, at (918) 689-9200 or for more information go to;

Oklahomacasa.org or our national website at [casaforchildren.org](http://casaforchildren.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
“Doing Business in Indian Country”



Continuing Legal Education Seminar  
River Spirit Events Center - Tulsa, OK  
Thursday and Friday – May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

**“Celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Doing Business in Indian Country CLE! Recognized speakers will discuss the Past, Present, & Future of Tribal Courts including: Court Origin; Jurisdiction; Indian Gaming and Tort Claims; Indian Child Welfare and Tribal Child Support.”**

**Judge Gregory H. Bigler**

Attendees will receive ten (10) hours of CLE Credit (Includes 1 hour of ethics)

Cost of Attendance- \$200.00

*\*Daily Rates Available – Contact the District Court for Additional Information*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ OBA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed Form and \$200.00 per registrant to:  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court  
2012 CLE Registration  
PO Box 652  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

*\*The Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association Meeting will be held at 0600 PM on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Visions Buffet located inside River Spirit Casino. For More information regarding the MCN Bar Association contact Connie Dearman at 918-758-1439. Myto!!*



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual “TO BRIDGE A GAP” CONFERENCE APRIL 2 – 5, 2012 Choctaw Casino and Resort



The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will be hosting the 11th Annual “To Bridge A Gap” Conference, in collaboration with the National Forest Service. This conference is designed to strengthen Government-to-Government relationships between federal and state agencies, and federally-recognized Tribes with interests in our forests.

### Topics for this year include:

- Preconference Tribal Meeting with FCC
- Regional Executive Session with Forest Leaders and Tribal Leaders
- Introductory GPS/GIS Preconference Hands-On Workshop
- NEPA and Section 106: Procedures and Issues
- Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites
- NAGPRA: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Tribal and Federal Collaborative Partnerships
- FCC Consultation Meeting with Tribes
- Tribal Relations Report
- National Historic Preservation Program: Updates and Application Process

Guest Speaker: TBA

Several federal and state agencies will be present including National Forest Service from various regions, Army Corp. of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Offices, National Park Service, and National Resources Conservation Service.

The “To Bridge A Gap” Conference is a wonderful opportunity to discuss tribal relations and cultural preservation issues, and participate with others who are dedicated to improving this relationship.



For more information please contact Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2216, [ithompson@choctawnation.com](mailto:ithompson@choctawnation.com), or Johnnie Jacobs at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2559, [jjacobs@choctawnation.com](mailto:jjacobs@choctawnation.com).

Conference registration and hotel information can also be found on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma website at [www.choctawnationculture.com/TBAG2012](http://www.choctawnationculture.com/TBAG2012).



The Government of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Organizational Chart  
Constitution  
And  
Statutes

Legislative Branch

- Speaker
- Second Speaker
- Standing Committees:
  - Business, Finance & Justice
  - Health, Education & Welfare
  - Land, Natural Resources & Cultural Preservation

Executive Branch

- Executive Office of the Principal Chief
  - Legal Counsel to the Principal Chief
  - Policy Analyst
  - Executive Secretary
- Office of Chief of Staff
  - Press Secretary – Media Affairs
  - Intergovernmental Affairs
- Office of Second Chief
  - Staff Assistant
- National Sovereignty Security Council
- Council of Economic Advisors
- The Cabinet

Judicial Branch

- Supreme Court
- Chief Justice and Justices
- District Court:
  - Criminal, Civil & Family
- District Court Judge
- Special District Judges
- Legal Services

Statutory Agencies

- Lighthorse Administration
  - Gaming Warden
- Office of Tax Commission
- Office of Public Gaming/Gaming Commissioner
  - Gaming Operations Authorities Board
    - Tulsa River Spirit Casino
    - Duck Creek Casino
    - Eufaula Casino
    - Okemah Casino
    - Checotah Casino
    - Bristow Casino
    - Okmulgee Casino
    - Holdenville Casino
- Creek Nation Foundation, Inc.
- Business Enterprise Board
- Tribal Trade & Commerce Board
- Veterans Affairs
- Economic Development Team
  - Chartered Communities

Constitutional Agencies

- Citizenship Board
- Election Board
- College of the Muscogee Nation

Department of the Administration

- Office of the Executive Director
- Human Resource Management Services
    - Selection
    - Training
    - Fringe Benefits
    - Labor Relations
  - General Services Administration:
    - Facilities
    - Fleet Management
      - ~ Geo Spatial
      - ~ Arbor Services
      - ~ Emergency Management Services
    - Risk & Safety Management
    - Telephone Services
    - Mail Distribution
  - Communication Services
    - Newspaper
    - Web Management
    - TV/Radio
  - Information Technology
  - Comprehensive Planning
    - Social/Census & Population Data
    - Economic
    - Physical

Department of the Treasury

- Office of the Secretary/Controller
- Office of Management & Budgets
  - Contracts and Budgets
  - Compliance
  - Self Governance
  - Procurement and Travel
- Finance & Accounting
  - Accounting
  - Payroll
  - Accounts Payable
- Credit & Finance
- Community Finance
- Fiscal & Investment Policy Committee
- Financial Analyst
- Office Administration
  - Cash Receipts

Department of Justice

- Office of Attorney General
- Child Support Enforcement

Cabinet for the Office of Principal Chief

Department of Health

- Office of the Secretary
- Hospitals:
    - Okemah
  - Clinics:
    - Sapulpa
    - Eufaula
    - Koweta
    - Okmulgee
    - Okemah
  - Specialized Health Programs:
    - Contract Health
    - Behavioral Health Services
    - Vocational Rehabilitation Services
    - Community Health Representatives
    - Elderly Nutrition Program
    - Women, Infant & Children Program
    - Diabetes Program
    - Tobacco Prevention Program
    - Caregiver Program
    - Optometry Services
    - Dental Services

Department of Community & Human Services

- Office of the Secretary
- Social Services
    - Social Security
    - School Clothing
    - LIHEAP Assistance
    - Hardship Assistance
    - Burial Assistance
    - General Assistance
  - Child Care Program
  - Children & Family Services
  - Community Research & Development
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Senior Services
  - Southern Regional Satellite Office
  - Food Distribution

Department of Education and Training

- Office of the Secretary
- Johnson O'Malley
  - Eufaula Dormitory
  - Employment & Training Services
  - Adult Education
  - Higher Education
  - Reintegration
  - Language Revitalization
  - Head Start
  - Student Assessment and Career Advisement
  - Creek Nation Foundation, Inc. – Student Scholarship Campaign Program
  - Library Management

Department of Interior Affairs

- Office of the Secretary
- 4-H Program
  - Realty Services
  - Transportation
    - Transportation Planning
    - Road Construction & Force Account Management
    - Transit Services
    - Tribal Driveways Program
      - ~ Residential
      - ~ Churches
      - ~ Ceremonial Grounds
      - ~ Cemeteries
  - Construction Services
    - Architectural & Engineering Design Services
    - Infrastructure Development
  - Capital Improvement Plan Management
  - Cultural Preservation
  - Agriculture Resource Management
  - Land & Natural Resources Management
  - Fish and Wildlife Management
  - Water Resource Management
  - Mineral Resource Management
    - Oil, Gas, Coal
  - Forest Resource Management
  - Air Quality Management
  - Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Management

Department of Commerce

- Office of the Secretary/Secretary of the Nation
- Tourism & Recreation
  - Museum Management
  - Small Business Development Center
  - Chartered Business Assistance Program
  - Economic Research & Development Planning
  - Technology Advancement & Technology Transfer Activities
  - Uniform Commercial Code Management
  - Industrial Park Management
  - Commercial Park Management

Department of Housing

- Office of the Secretary
- Accounting
  - Admissions
  - Construction Services
  - Contract Services
  - Development
  - Force Account
  - Housing Management
  - Purchasing & Receiving
  - Housing Programs
    - Homeownership
    - Rental Properties
    - Home Rehabilitation
    - Mortgage Assistance
  - Resident Services
  - NAHASDA Programs :
    - Environmental
    - Grant Compliance
    - SIPs Plant



Coming and Going  
in Indian Country  
by Joy Harjo

Estonko--This morning is a Georgia morning. I'm here for a two-week residency at a small women's college in Decatur. It is warm, as it has been in Oklahoma, and everything is blooming. Since I arrived it has been raining flower petals and pollen. The pollen count has been enormous, shattering any records in known time in this part of the world. I stood next too a truck that was streaked with yellow pollen. Because I have spent much time around Navajos and Pueblos I naturally consider that we are being blessed by such fertility. Yet, it's been rough on sinuses and lungs. Any gift comes with its responsibility, its cost.

I bring my breakfast outside to concrete bench, facing East. The Sun embraces and feeds all of us, the many plants, the fvsjates with their spring mating songs making attractive webs, the many insects and creatures, including humans who are drinking of the light of the sun. I want to join two women who have taken a break from the kitchen. I like the up-and-down sound of their voices, and the pitch of their storytelling and laughter.

I remember that this is old Mvskoke country and try to settle back in the place of knowing to get a sense of who and what was here, before Mr. George Washington Scott who founded this college. The settlers here were an adamant bunch. They were basically, collected as the State of Georgia, the first state in the union to officially outlaw indigenous people. They brutally forced Mvskoke and Cherokee out, the first forced removal before the Trail of Tears. I am staying in the Alumnae House. The bed in my room belonged to Mr. Scott whose face looks at me from a picture over the bed. Now, that fact concerns me a little. I have to cover his image. There won't be any partying in this room, though my partying days are long behind me.

What a beautiful land this is, and to leave it was the beginning of the breaking of the heart of our people. There are helpful plants everywhere I look. And I understand that the deer were plentiful. This Saturday many Mvskoke are meeting at the site of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend over in Alabama. I am planning to find a car and drive over. I've been there twice. The first time was about fifteen years ago, when I was invited to speak at Auburn University. I was taken out one day to the grounds of the massacre. My grandfather of seven generations, Monahwee (here they call him "Menawa") was one of the leaders of that uprising against an unlawful move from our homelands to Indian Territory, far to the west. I walked the grounds from East to the North and all the way around. I felt such sadness that it settled in my lungs. I got bronchitis that day and I had never had bronchitis before. I also felt how the spirit of our people was still part of the land, the plants, and the place. We carry it with us through the generations. Seven generations is not long at all, in the time scheme of the present world.

I understand why some of the people warn us not to go back. What we find here could be difficult to carry. But I believe that the spirits of our people who are still here are happy to see us, to know that when we left we carried the fire and we made it. We are still here. Mvto



# And Still the Waters Run: *Keeping the flame alive*



George Windes  
CMCA Historian

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — I often tell the story of families living in California who try to celebrate our Muscogee culture. This month I have chosen to share the story of my personal (immediate) family. I apologize for the familiarity. Pride is not always about ego. Sometimes it is linked to familial achievements (especially for one's descendants).

But finally an elopement came with a pretty Creek maiden. Her name was Evelyn E. Freeman. She was just 25, a great great granddaughter of Red Eagle.

The sweet union was celebrated, but for a year. In 1940 the couple welcomed into the world twin sons, but at a terrible cost. Evelyn died two days later. I have told the story previously in my column (June 2009) entitled, "In Search of a Creek Mother."

My emphasis this month is to talk about the grand and great grandchildren of my parents.

Dad didn't see any grandchildren until he was 65 years old, but then in an absolute flood tide, 12 grandchildren came in 12 years. Since he lived to be nearly 96, he was able to see them all

reach adulthood.

All 12 hold Muscogee (Creek) citizenship. They have produced over 30 offspring (so far), and most of those also hold citizenship. Recently, the first great great grandchild was proclaimed. It gives credence to my column title: And Still the Waters Run.

Many of the original 12 grandchildren sought college degrees, with teaching being a major aspiration. Currently, six of the great grandkids are attending college, with two recent graduates and two additional siblings headed off this next semester. Those in college attend BYU-Utah and Hawaii, with others at California State University (Dominguez Hills campus), Arizona State and La Verne colleges.

Tribal scholarships helped with basic and advance degrees. So far, "bankruptcies" have been avoided.

So my question this month is how do we keep Creek culture alive and respected by our youth, especially if you live 1,000 (or 10,000) miles from Okmulgee?

I believe it is through Native recognition and service. In our clan, we are big on family history. I recently

retired and was quickly accredited as a Native storyteller (I love the challenge). My twin brother and his wife are volunteer docents at Lobo Lodge Indian Museum in San Clemente, Calif.

Our tribal semi-monthly paper, the *Muscogee Nation News*, comes to nearly all our homes and/or is shared. On those special occasions when Okmulgee leadership visits, we try to make sure the youth listen to the messages. The best answer to my question though must be through service. It is the true genius for building love of one's ethnicity. It is the effort remembered the longest and it builds friendships. So volunteer!

My twin and I know that the loss of our Nation is a mere generation away if one completely breaks ties to Okmulgee. Political and religious life is important to the tribe. Language is also very important, but very difficult to keep from a distance.

It is not easy in urban society, to keep the tribal fires alive. I recommend family councils (goals driven) and Muscogee (Creek) food... especially the food!

I read with great interest, the in-

augural address of our new Principal Chief, George Tiger. I liked it when he mentioned the youth "which will one day hold the leadership reins of our tribe."

Toward the end of his address, he states: "There is a Mvskoke saying that goes, 'Keep on going, regardless, keep on going.' That has served as a rallying cry for the Mvskoke people for hundreds of years. Today as we look to the future, let us remember this rallying cry." I think this is good advice.

I am keeping this column a little short, as I hope to share a hodgepodge of photos of Mvskoke citizens who gladden my heart. They are MY children and grandchildren, and also MY nephews and nieces.

Mvto for looking...

Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com





ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRADLEY - COPELAND



MUSKOGEE — Yuliya Copeland and Matthew Lynn Bradley were united in marriage Feb. 4, 2012 at the Muskogee Country Club.

Vows were exchanged in an evening ceremony, with Dr. Lance Sawyer officiating. The bride is the daughter of Maryna Piatak of Broken Arrow and the late Igor Piatak. The bridegroom is the son of Sam and Peggy Bradley of Muskogee and the late Ray and Esta DePriest of Muskogee.

Serving the bride as maid of honor was Toni Bradley Smith, sister of the groom.

Serving the groom as best man was Jeff Bradley, brother of the groom. Bridesmaids were Jelisa Richey and Elena Munoz. Groomsmen were Brad Smith and Adam Wibel. Flower girl was Karina Munoz ring bearer was Austin Copeland, son of the bride. Suzanne Flemming was the pianist.

The couple will honeymoon in Riviera Maya, Mexico. They have made their home in Broken Arrow.

BRUNER ANNIVERSARY

WETUMKA — Jake and Elizabeth Bruner will celebrate thier 57th wedding anniversary April 1, 2012. They attend Middle Creek Indian Church outside of Dustin by Lamar.

Jake is a deacon of the church

Elizabeth is a Women's leader of the church.

CHASTAIN - GREEN



COFFEYVILLE, Kansas — Announcing the wedding of Cimeron Chastain and Paul Green on April 14, 2012, at the Amazing Grace Ministry in Coffeyville beginning at 6 p.m.

Reception will follow at the VFW.

Parents of the bride are the late John and Diane Chastain of Weleetka, Okla., and Wetumka, Okla., respectively.

Parents of the Groom are Lorraine and Ron Green of Coffeyville, Kansas.

All friends and family are welcome. The couple is registered at Coffeyville Wal-Mart if you would like to send gifts.

Chastain is of Tuskegee Tribal Town and clan is Katcv (Tiger).

NIX-SPOTTEDBIRD



JENKS — The Nix family would like to announce the upcoming wedding of Jamie Spottedbird and Mathew Nix. The wedding will take place April 13, 2012 at 7 p.m., in Jenks.

Jamie is the granddaughter of the late Wilson and Mahayla Chalakee of Okmulgee. Mathew is the grandson of Robert and Jane Miller of Beggs and the son of Lea Ann Nix of Morris.

Jamie and Matt grew up in Morris, and currently reside in Glenpool.

BIRTHDAYS

ADDISON DEO



OKMULGEE — Addison Gail Deo turned six years old March 9, 2012.

Addison is the daughter of Philip and Tina Deo of Okmulgee. She is the sibling of Ian Deo.

Grandparents are Bill Deo Jr., Sandy Long, Elmer and Brenda Jack, the late Rev. Roley and Sarah Haynes, and the late Mitchell and Louma Jack.

Family and friends attended her

party at the Sweet Shoppe in Morris, Okla. The theme of the party was 'Monster High.'

Addison is a member of the Skunk Clan and attends Okmulgee Primary School.

JAYLEIGH HARJO



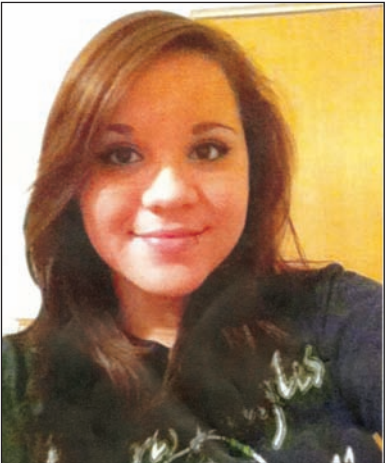
SAPULPA — Jaleigh Fus-Holvtoce Harjo celebrated her first birthday on March. 7, 2012 at the Sapulpa Indian Community Center with family and friends.

The theme of the party was "Princess."

Jayleigh is the daughter of Jamie Rolland and Vinnie Harjo. Her grandparents are Joanna Lowe, James Rolland, Woody Harjo, and Corrine Bruner Harjo. Her great grandparents are the late Andrew Lowe and Mary Louise Bible Lowe, and B.J. Jackson.

Jaleigh is a member of the Bird Clan, and is from Kellyville Euchee Ceremonial Ground.

JASMYNE JACK



DUSTIN — Jasmyne Denise Jack turned 16 years old on March 19, 2012.

Her parents are the late Elmer and Brenda Jack.

Her siblings are Robby, Tumble, Jennifer, Randy, Tina, Stacy, Paige and Gully.

Her grandparents are the late

Mitchell and the late Louma Jack.

Jasmyne is a sophomore at Morris High School.

She had a gathering with 50 of her closest family and friends at her grandmother's house in Dustin, Okla.

She is a member of the Skunk Clan.

ANTHONY NEWMAN JR.



OREGON CITY, Ore. — Anthony Newman Jr., turned 16 years old March 9, 2012.

His parents are Anthony and Teri Newman.

Siblings are Raylee and Daelyn, and his grandparents are Tony and Rebecca Marks Newman.

He attends Central Catholic High School.

Anthony is looking forward to football season at Central Catholic High School where his father is the coach. He currently lives in Oregon City, Ore.

BAYLEE NEWMAN



OREGON CITY, Ore., — Baylee Newman turned 18 years old Jan. 25, 2012.

Her parents are Anthony and Teri Newman. Siblings are Anthony Jr., and Daelyn, and her grandparents are Tony and Rebecca Marks Newman.

She lives in Oregon City, Ore., and attends Central Catholic High

School.

Baylee is looking forward to entering college this year.

Her basketball team "Ram" is going for their first state title this year.

DAELYN NEWMAN



OREGON CITY, Ore. — Daelyn Newman turned 13 years old on March 10, 2012.

Her parents are Anthony and Teri Newman.

Her siblings are Anthony and Baylee, and her grandparents are Toni and Rebecca Marks Newman.

Daelyn lives in Oregon City, Ore., and attends St. John the Apostle School.

NATALIE PRIMEAUX



OKMULGEE — Natalie Primeaux turned 12 years old on Mar. 17, 2012.

Natalie is the daughter of Bertha Primeaux, and Eric Leach of Okmulgee.

Her siblings are Stephanie and Clinton Primeaux.

Her grandmothers are Jamima Primeaux, and Susie Corley.

She attends Okmulgee Eastside Elementary, and is a member of the Skunk Clan.

## The Muskogee Nation News will no longer print announcements as of April 1, 2012

Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The Muskogee Nation News will no longer be accepting or publishing announcements as of April 1, 2012.

Due to the need for increased space for news and other edito-

rial content, announcements will no longer be accepted by the Muskogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department for inclusion in print media.

Citizens may still submit this information via email for possible in-

clusion on the Muskogee Nation News Facebook page to SCosper@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

For more information, contact MCN Communications at (918) 732-7720.

# I Choose Us:

Learn how to take  
your marriage from  
GOOD to GREAT!

## On April 14<sup>th</sup> you will learn

- How to Build a Life-long Love
- How to Increase Trust & Intimacy
- Healthy Conflict Management Skills
- How to Create Emotional Safety
- How to Value Differences
- How to Go From Anger to Intimacy
- How to Listen and Understand
- The Power of Forgiveness

For more information or to register: **NWAMARRIAGES.COM**

Saturday, April 14, 2012

10 AM – 4 PM

Okmulgee, OK

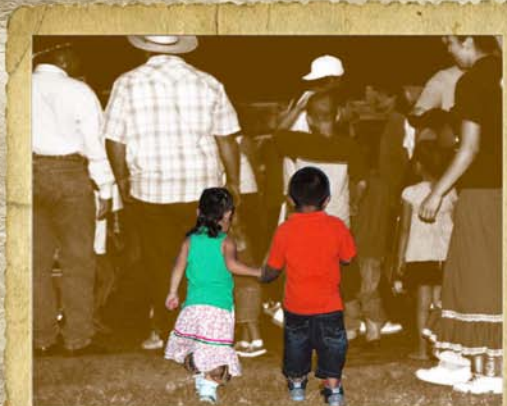
*Complimentary lunch is included but you must register*



*It takes two.*

Funding for this event was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Grant Number 90-FM-0023. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

## Change a life. Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent



Children. Keepers of our tradition.



**NICWA**

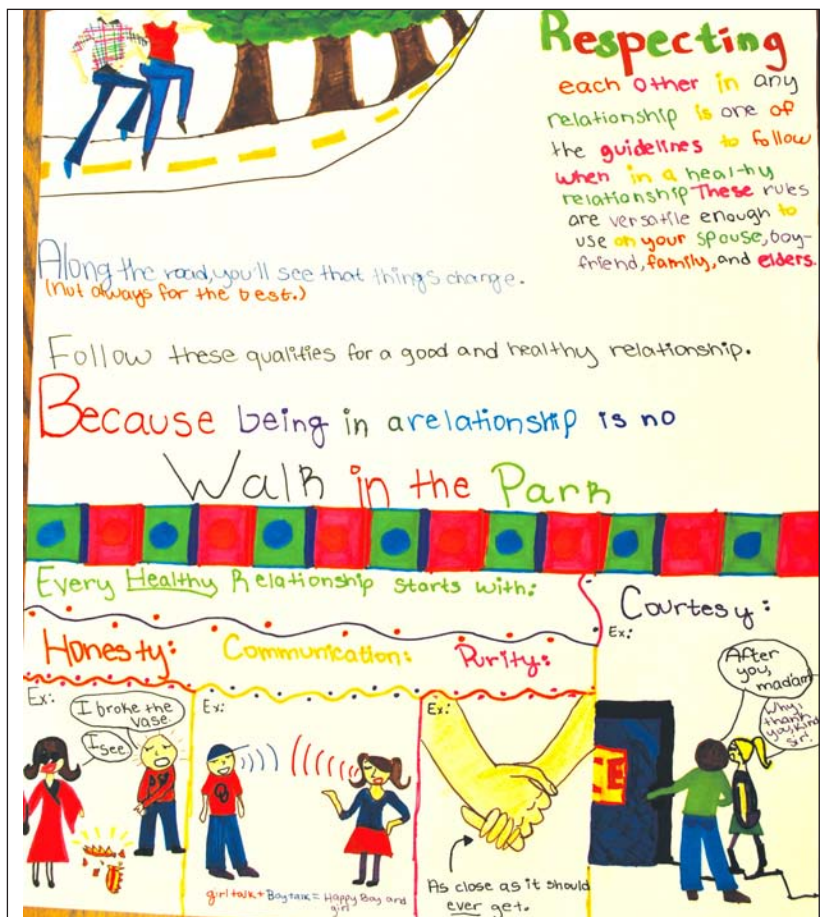
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
*Protecting our children • Preserving our culture*

**Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today.  
In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muskogee Creek Children in  
state and tribal custody looking for a place to call "cuko" (home).  
Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.**

**For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett  
at (918)732-7883 OR email: [tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)**



# Wilson wins first place in Family Violence Prevention Program poster contest



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Tyra Wilson secured the first place poster in the MCN Family Violence Prevention poster contest depicting respect in teen dating situations.

## Media Release MCN Family Violence Prevention

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program would like to congratulate all of the youth who participated in the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Poster Contest.

The winning posters were as follows: first place Tyra Wilson, second place Madeline Lamb, third place Christine Jones.

The Family Violence Prevention Program would like to thank MCN Business Enterprise and MCN Trade & Commerce for their donations and support to make our first poster contest a success.

The program would also like to thank Second Chief Roger Barnett, Thomasine Fife and Rebecca Landsberry for serving as judges.  
Myto!

**ANITA HARDING BAIL BONDS**  
“If you want to go home, pick up the phone”  
  
**918-756-7690**  
24 hours • 7 Days a Week  
Fast • Friendly • Confidential  
We Can Help You!  
  
106 S. Okmulgee • On the Corner of 6th & Okmulgee

**MVSKOKE**  
**NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE**  
(CREEK AND SEMINOLE LANGUAGE)  
CONTACT: STEVE RANDALL  
AT (918) 704-3738 OR VISIT:  
**WWW.MVSKOKEBIBLE.COM**  
\$20 EACH  
ORDERS OF 10 OR MORE \$15 EACH

**INTEGRITY FUNERAL SERVICE**

- Proud to have Native American employees and ownership.
- Special packaging available that utilizes the MCN and BIA benefits.
- Traditions matter and we are here to help honor them with respect and dignity.
- \$4400.00 Traditional Creek Package that includes a 20 steel casket, concrete graveliner and services.

**www.integrityfuneralservice.com**  
410 East Trudgeon Street  
Henryetta, Oklahoma 74437  
(918) 652-6600

**“Caring when it counts”**

# MCN Emergency Response Team trains for Wilderness Search and Rescue

## Media Release MCN Emergency Management

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Response Team (MCN ERT) began training on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 to become certified in Wilderness Search and Rescue.

The 25 members of the MCN ERT respond to areas within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation during disasters and emergencies. Many of the team members have already been certified in CPR, first aid, ropes rescue, swift-water rescue and CERT.

“This Wilderness Search and Rescue will become another tool in our ‘tool box’ so that we can help not only Creek citizens but the citizens within our jurisdiction and the state of Oklahoma,” stated James Nichols, MCN Emergency Manager.

The MCN ERT will complete over 40 hours of training and then be evaluated by the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) before becoming certified. The training in-



MCN ERT/Courtesy

The MCN Emergency Response Team has been training to receive their Wilderness Search and Rescue certifications.

volves class room and hands on skills such as map reading, survival, grid searches and patient packaging.

“Our team is dedicated to providing a well-rounded Emergency Response Team to the citizens. We want to be available to help our neighbors

and their family members in times of emergencies and disasters,” Nichols stated. The MCN ERT is comprised of Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees that have volunteered their time to participate on the team.

# “Visions of our Ancestors” calendars still available

## Media Release MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — A 2012 tribal calendar featuring images of historic leader Opoethleyahola, ceremonial dancers, a traditional Christian church and the College of the Muscogee Nation is now available for free distribution to Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens.

The “Visions of Our Ancestors” 2012 calendar includes

National Council Planning Sessions, monthly meeting dates, tribal events (such as the Muscogee Nation Festival and Council Oak Ceremony) and the birthdates of the Chief and Second Chief.

The wall calendar measures 13” x 19” and is suitable for home or office use. A larger 24” x 36” calendar is also available for use by community centers and churches. These calendars

are available free of charge at the MCN Public Relations office at the tribal complex (no mail deliveries please). Distribution of the large calendars is limited to one per community or church.

For more information, contact MCN Public Relations at (918) 732-7617.

**WHITE BUFFALO PLAYERS CLUB**

**CREEK NATION Casino DUCK CREEK**

**10085 FERGUSON RD. • BEGGS, OK**  
**(918)267-3449 | OPEN 24 HOURS**

**WE HAVE YOU COVERED**  
Arvest Bank provides the financial solutions you need.

**Personal & Business Checking Accounts\***  
All Arvest checking accounts come with the FREE services you need to do your day-to-day banking – Arvest Online Banking, Mobile Banking\*\*, Arvest CheckCard, and 24-Hour Account Information Line.

**Mortgage Loans:**  
Rural Development  
FHA, VA or Bond  
Section 184 Indian Home Loan  
- Lower Monthly Payments  
- No Monthly Mortgage Insurance  
- Lower Down Payment  
- Low Fixed Rate

**Mention this ad for a \$75 Closing Cost Discount.\*\*\***

**(918) 631-1000**  
**arvest.com**

**ARVEST®**

\*\$100.00 minimum required to open a checking account.  
\*\*Your wireless carrier may assess a fee for data services.  
Please consult your wireless plan or provider for details.  
\*\*\*Some restrictions may apply. See associate for details.

Member FDIC



# Creek veterans honored in Arizona

**Gerald Wofford**  
*MCN Communications Manager*

SACATON, Ariz. — Feb. 23, 2012 marked the 67th anniversary of the historic American flag-raising by the U.S. Marines on Mt. Suribachi in Iwo Jima. The Native American connection to this monumental World War II event is the inclusion of Pima tribal citizen and Marine, Ira Hayes, in the famous photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal.

Every year, the Gila River Indian Community commemorates Hayes by holding a special parade, speeches and flag-raising ceremonies throughout the weekend. This year's festivities included a parade winding through Gila River, featured Grand Marshall Phillip Coon waving to the miles-long crowd.

Michael Coon, Phillip's son, escorted him to Sacaton, Ariz., to not only be a part of the anniversary but to meet and visit with Kenneth Hayes, younger brother of the late Ira Hayes.

"It was a special trip for Dad and I," said Michael, "Dad and I have been out here before but never in this capacity, they [the Gila River Indian Community] had asked Dad sometime a while back to be the Grand Marshall."

Coon, a World War II veteran and a 'Bataan Death March' survivor talked with Hayes who is a veteran of the Korean War. Hayes was joined by his daughter, Sharon who talked about the movie 'The Outsider,' a 1961 Hollywood production that featured Tony Curtis as the reluctant Pima war hero.

"Yes, all the outside scenes that show Tony Curtis walking around the reservation weren't shot in a studio, they were all shot here, right where we all live," said Sharon. She said family remembers recall Curtis as polite and friendly.

The evening before the parade and the meeting with Hayes, Coon



MNN/Gerald Wofford

Michael and Phillip Coon were invited to the Gila River Indian Community in February as part of the commemorative events surrounding the anniversary of the historic flag-raising in Iwo Jima. This picture was taken of the two on a recent trip to Washington, D.C.

attended a banquet that honored many Native American veterans from around the country, including the popular Navajo 'Code-Talkers,' members of the Blackfeet Warriors Society and the Yakima Nation from Washington.

For Phillip and Michael, this marked another special occasion in which the 92 year old Creek war veteran was not only honored for his exploits and experiences during World War II, but was also surprised.

"Before the dinner, I was visiting with the leaders of the Pima Nation and Chairman Emmanuel Hernandez of 'Ira Hayes Post 84' who coordinated all the events for the weekend," said Michael.

"When we began to talk about Dad and what he had to endure as a prisoner of war, Mr. Hernandez introduced a gentleman to us that had actually been a member of the unit that had been the liberators of Dad and all the other prisoners that had been held for so long in the Pacific," Conn remembered.

The meeting was emotional as both war veterans recalled walking up

and down the hill where the prison camp was built. Michael, who is also a veteran of the U.S. Army like his father, also recalled lifting another veteran's spirits during the ceremonies after the parade. Michael simply offered him a special red, white and blue beaded cap with eagle feather that he was wearing. "Sometimes even with all the special ceremonies honoring all the Indian veterans going on, there may be someone who may be down even though his exploits should be acknowledged," Conn said.

Michael was approached by a particular Native veteran who had served in the U.S. Air Force. "He was admiring my hat and we began to talk, he felt that his service was not as great as many other veterans around him which wasn't true. He told me he liked the hat, which had the words 'Airborne Veteran.' I told him 'here, put it on.' Then he asked me where I could buy one. I said 'No! This is yours to keep.' He was so grateful and said that our warrior spirits would always be united."

# Glenpool Community to vote on constitutional changes April 11

**Media Release**  
*MCN Community Development*

GLENPOOL — Voters of the Glenpool Creek Indian Community will vote on changes to the community's constitution and by-laws April

10, 2012.  
For more information, call Diana Billie at (918) 732-7963.

## Cancer Care Community Education offered in Eufaula through May

**Media Release**  
*MCN Division of Health*

EUFAULA — The Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Eufaula Indian Community Center (Skate Zone) beginning April 9, 2012 with a family fun event.

The 12 educational workshops will continue through May 31. Sessions will be held every Monday and Thursday for six weeks.

NNACC has completed two workshop sessions, Okmulgee and Holdenville areas, with a great response.

Okmulgee had a total of 203 participants with an average attendance of 60 per session.

Holdenville had a total of 68 participants with an average of 40 per session.

The navigators are Loretta Denny (918) 441-6049 and Patricia Coachman (918) 441-6048, office (918) 758-2710. Debra Isham is the project manager.

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a \$10 gift card after each session for participation.

Location: Eufaula Indian Community Center (Skating Ring) 800 Birks Rd., Eufaula

Dates: April 9 – June 4, 2012  
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.  
Family Fun Event:  
Monday, April 9  
Overview:  
Thursday, April 12 - Cancer 100 Prevention:  
Monday, April 16 – Energy Balance  
Thursday, April 19 – Healthy Eating  
Monday, April 30 – Exposure to Environmental Contaminants  
Early Detection:  
Thursday, May 3– Get on the Path to Breast Health  
Monday, May 7 – Get on the Path to Colon Health  
Thursday, May 10 – Get on the Path to Lung Health  
Monday, May 14 – Get on the Path to Cervix Health  
Thursday, May 17 - Get on the Path to Prostate Health  
Survivorship:  
Monday, May 21 – Side Effects  
Thursday, May 31– Survivors' Support Circles  
Comfort/Palliative Care  
Monday, June 4 – Wills & Advance Directive

# Giddy up, River Spirit gamers!

# SPINANZA

## SPIN YOUR WAY TO \$100,000

every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

**Through April 22**

Earn entries daily for your chance to spin three prize wheels during our "Triple Spin Shoot-out" every Friday, Saturday and Sunday and you'll ride away with Rewards Play, Gift Cards, prize packages from T-Town area businesses, or the biggest bounty of bucks this side of the border! See Players Club for details.

### RIVER SPIRIT

Casino

81<sup>ST</sup> & RIVERSIDE | TULSA | (918) 299-8518 | RIVERSPIRITTULSA.COM